

I am a hearing impaired individual. Watching TV in the absence of captioning is virtually worthless with the exception of athletic events which generally require no sound. In fact without captioning I do not view many TV programs especially CITCOMS which make extensive use of "laugh tracks" that virtually mask the dialog. Even with the captions, I miss the verbal cues and subtle intonations that make something funny.

Athletic events are a special case because I can follow the action without words. Even viewing these events is made difficult because of the telecast producers ridiculous use of enhanced crowd noise to synthetically create what the producer hopes is excitement on the part of the viewer. My viewing experience is enhanced by the captions. It would be enhanced even more by the muting or at least greatly reducing the sound level of the crowd noise. There is also no reason for the commentators to use excessive "enthusiasim" in their comments about the action.

Captions are valuable to me. Television viewing would be a much less satisfying experience in their absence. It is exactly the reason that radio does not attract my attention.

Thanks
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